dents were ordered on grounds of difficulties regarding health, residence transport or to put brothers and sisters in the same shift.

(d) and (e). The second shift has been introduced experimentally in nine schools as a pilot project only.

Educating the Masses about Diseases

3436. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to encourage the voluntary bodies and health care organisations for educating the people on prevention of dreaded diseases relating to heart and cancer; and

(b) if so, salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Central Health Education Bureau distributes various health education materials to voluntary organisations on demand, and also helps them in such activities. Under National Cancer Control Programme, financial assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs in provided to eligible Non. Govt. Organisations for health education and early detection activities in cancer.

Eco-Mark Labels

3437. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised a scheme to issue 'Eco.- Mark' labels to industrial products by April 1992, which will be deemed environment friendly and cause either minimum or no pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of products;

(c) the criteria being adopted for issuing of 'Eco-mark' labels and the issuing authority thereof;

(d) whether the food additives containing artificial colours and flavours put adverse effect on human health;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government propose such scheme for food items, food preservatives and additives also; and

(g) if so, the details there and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Government have identified sixteen categories of consumer product to be taken up in the Friendly Products and for which criteria for ECOMARK are being decided. The criteria are expected to be such as to identify products which cause comparatively less environment harm than otherwise. The draft criteria for these products are likely to be finalised by April 1992. The products identified are:

(i) Soaps and detergents.

(ii) Plastics

(iii) Food items such as Edible Oils, Tea, Coffee, Baby food, processed foods Beverages.

(vi) Papers (Fine paper, Sanitary Papers, News Print, etc)

(v)Textiles, diapers etc.

(vi) Preservatives and Food additives.

(vii) Cosmetics e.g. Shampoo, Lipstics, Face Powder.

(viii) Paints.

(ix) Batteries.

(x) Lubricating Oils.

(xi) Packaging.

(xii) Aerosol.

(xiii) Pesticides, Insecticides, Biocides and Weedicides.

(xiv) Drugs

(xv) Electrical Goods/Electronic Goods.

(xvi) Wood substitutes.

(c) The parameters to be used to determine the criteria for issue of Ecomark label for various products are;

(i) Production process including source of raw material;

(ii) Case of natural resources;

(iii) Likely impact on the environment;

(iv) Energy conservation in the production of the product;

(v) Effect and extent of waste arising from the production process;

(vi) Disposal of the product and it's container;

(vii) Utilisation of waste and recycled materials ;

(viii) Suitability for recycling or packaging;

(ix) Biodegradability.

The issuing authority is the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(d) to (g). The presence of artificial colours and flavours which are deleterious to human health will be taken into account while prescribing the standards for preservatives and food additives for Environment Friendly Products.

Extinction of Wild Buffaloes

3438. DR. ASIM BALA:
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the regions where wild buffalores are seen in the country;

(b) whether the wild buffaloes are on the verge of extinction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect this endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Wild buffaloes are reported to be found in the Indravati National Park (Tiger Reserve), Pamed, Udanti and Bhairamgarh Wiflife Sanctuaries of Madhya Pradesh and the Kaziranga National Park, Manas Tiger Reserve and the Dibru-Saikhowa and Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuaries of Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken to protect the wild buffaloes include: